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4/28/03

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SACRAMENTO, CA.

RESPONSE TO FERC PROJECT 2100 SCOPING DOCUMENT II

THE CURRENT STUDY PLANS THAT COVER THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS AT FERC PROJECT 2100 ARE STUDYING TRAILS THAT HAVE RECENTLY BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED FROM HIKING/EQUESTRIAN USE DESIGNATION TO BICYCLE/HIKING/EQUESTRIAN USE DESIGNATION. HOW WERE THE TRAILS PHYSICALLY CHANGED IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THIS CHANGE?

WHY WAS TRAIL USE DESIGNATION IN PROJECT 2100 CHANGED PRIOR TO ALP NEGOTIATIONS INSTEAD OF BEING INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES & REVIEW OF FACILITIES INCLUDED UNDER THE NEW LICENSE APPLICATION? IMPACTS OF THIS MAJOR CHANGE WERE NOT STUDIED, AS REQUIRED BY STATE & FEDERAL LAW. THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN STUDIED BEFORE EXISTING CONDITIONS OF THE CURRENT LICENSE WERE ALTERED. THE MAJOR CHANGE ENACTED (ON TRAILS) OUTSIDE OF THE ALP APPEARS TO BE PIECE-MEALING OF A LARGER PROJECT (RECREATION PLAN) WHICH WAS PART OF AN

4/28/03

ONGOING CEQA/NEPA DOCUMENT.

WHAT WERE THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS FROM
ADDING A NEW USER GROUP TO TRAILS?

WHAT ~~WERE~~ ^{HAVE} THE ACTUAL IMPACTS BEEN
FROM ADDING A WHOLE NEW USER GROUP?

HAS HIKER OR EQUESTRIAN USE DE-
CLINED?

HOW CAN PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT TO
RIDE ~~ON~~ HORSES OR HIKE ON TRAILS
THAT INCLUDE BICYCLE USE, BE STUDIED
WHEN THEY AVOID RIDING ON THOSE TRAILS?

WHAT ALTERNATIVES CAN BE EXPLORED
INSTEAD OF ADDING BICYCLES ON TO
HIKING/EQUESTRIAN TRAILS?

WHAT ALTERNATIVES CAN BE EXPLORED ~~FOR~~ TO
CURRENT MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
OF TRAILS?

WAS CONTROVERSY STUDIED? WAS IMPAIRED
ENJOYMENT OR USE BY HISTORICAL
TRAIL USERS STUDIED?

POTENTIAL
WERE ^{POTENTIAL} FISCAL IMPACTS TO THE COMMUNITY
THAT MIGHT BE NEGATIVE TO THE LOCAL
ECONOMY STUDIED?

I BELIEVE THE ABOVE IMPACTS MUST BE STUDIED &

INCLUDED IN } Catherine H. Hodges
SCOPING }
DOCUMENT! } PO BOX 1126
 Croville, Ca.
 95965



BOOK ON Bidwell:

Appreciate the park

By Laura Ursany
Business Editor

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When she discovered that no one had authored a simple field guide to Bidwell Park's flora and fauna, Jeanne Boze was astonished. Eight years and a second printing of the guide, the former Chico State University biology instructor is still astonished — and alone in her field.

Written in simple terms that a general reader or young student can understand, "The Nature of Bidwell Park" translates the little elements of the park that are easily missed.

From tiny yellow flowers under foot to the creatures who hide in caves and crevices to those who rule the sky, Boze unfolds a panorama unknown to many who tramp the 3,750-acre wildlands.

To use the guide in the park for a green classroom experience, or find an armchair and consume pages for a foundation not only of Bidwell Park's makeup but of much of the north state.

Boze pines beyond the current living and breathing, lacking the park's geologic development, culture aspects and history.

There's a section on John and Annie Bidwell, who decided before his death that the city should receive the land. The conveyance did not occur until 1935, but Boze points out that the deed clearly defines the gift as being from both John and Annie Bidwell.

Boze was moved to tackle a second edition after the 1,000 copies of her 1991 guide disappeared from a library shelf.

Adding to the project was the fact she had not been able to include everything in the first edition, such as the colorful lichen that clings to rocks.

For the revised edition, she's gone more into depth on certain issues, as well as including new elements. Added to the book is a section on plants that were used by local tribes, plus birds and plants missing from the first printing. Additionally, she's dedicated an entire section to ferns, mosses, liverworts and lichen.

"I'm embarrassed about some of the things missing from the first guide," Boze said. "They were oversights."

With guide in hand, Boze hopes people will slow down and look more carefully when they're in the

park.

Stuffed with readable inserts, the guide covers more than 100 plants and animal sketches done by Cynthia Dykes and also by Boze's nephew, Jason Lee Boze.

As in her first book, Boze directs the reader to where the plant or animal is likely to be found. For example, with birds, she tells whether they may be on tree trunks, on the ground or perched on small branches.

Boze acknowledges that not every plant and tree found in the park is included, primarily because the missing items are generally well known.

With the clearly written descriptions and the illustrations, a novice nature viewer can identify moving or still life.

"I wanted a community book rather than a text," said Boze, who holds a bachelor's degree in biology and master's degree in botany, both from Chico State University. She came to this area in the early 1970s.

Boze would be thrilled if folks could tell tidy tips flowers from scrambled eggs or point to a toyon bush but painting an alertness to



Photo by Ty Barbour

Author Jeanne Boze finds the terrain of Bidwell Park a restful haven and an intriguing classroom.

park history, Boze sifted through years of meeting records from city councils and park commissions, picking up an amazing assortment of tidbits. Among those are the

sion makers are growing more protective.

Issues facing the park now are ones she's watched with concern: excessive motor bikes creating erosion problems, herbicides posing health issues for humans and animals, native plants in need of protecting and the ongoing war against non-native plants.

Boze is intrigued with the upcoming use of goats instead of herbicides.

"Goat hooves are different. There shouldn't be a problem with them," said Boze, who notes that scheduling and length of grazing time would be critical elements in the plan.

Boze is supportive of the introduction of prescribed burns being used in the park, knowing that fire encourages regrowth of native plants.

"I saw Yellowstone National Park after the bad fire of a few years back. I was impressed with how quickly plants were coming back."

Bidwell Park has found various roles to play in Boze's life. She initially met her husband at Five-Mile Pool, and knew that Chico was to be home after falling in love with the park, its pools and quiet places.

Her book sells for about \$15 and can be found at Tower Books, Chico Creek Nature Center, Chico State University bookstores and Bidwell Memorial's visitor center.

Botanist, former instructor pens second edition of her sold-out book on Bidwell Park

what's around them would be just as pleasing.

"My goal is to educate people about the park so that they can value it," said Boze, who gets down to Chico's massive park several times a month.

"We live in an absolutely wonderful place where the Sierra Nevada and the Cascades meet. There are the rich valley soils, the lava caps and the creeks. It combines to make this an amazing place."

Boze has a large section on Indians, weaving a fanciful tale of Yellow Flowers and Antelope Runner to reveal what she thinks tribal life in this area might have been like. She explores their living accommodations, food, daily existence, celebrations and culture.

Inside the book also is a map of upper and lower Bidwell Park, pointing out landmarks.

To expand her knowledge about

facts that water skiing was allowed on Horseshoe Lake in the 1930s, and that the park was a popular destination for overnight camping in the early 1900s.

For Boze, the park has always been a mental and physical escape from the rigors of life for the former Chico resident who now calls Paradise her home. Living in the Bay Area for a few years and working as a groundskeeper only sealed her devotion to the park.

Not an issue she dwells upon.

Boze has multiple sclerosis and withdrew from teaching as her condition worsened. She relies upon a outery opened personal vehicle for her forays into the park, and has taken the vehicle into national parks and deep into forests that make two-tooted hikers pick their ways.

With her appreciation of the land and its wild inhabitants, Boze is grateful that park officials and deci-

MORE DOCUMENTATION IN SUPPORT OF SEPARATE TRAILS

L26

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 1998 *

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Read

Readers Recommend

Illinois—Dr. Dale Vanden Brink, Rolling Hills Estates: "The Little House on the Prairie, R.R. 2, Patterson Road, P.O. Box 525, Sullivan 61951; tel. (217) 728-4727. Queen Anne Victorian B&B with pool in Amish country, near golf course, lake and summer theater. Fantastic breakfasts." Rates: \$63.60-\$79.50 double; open April 1 to Jan. 1.

France—Thom Hendrickson, Seal Beach: "Le Grand Hôtel Jeanne d'Arc, Blvd. St. Marcel 43, 75013 Paris; tel. 011-33-1-47-07-43-17, fax 011-33-1-47-07-87-17. Comfortable hotel on Left Bank near Gare d'Austerlitz and Métro. Shower and TV in room." Rates: doubles from about \$80.

South Africa—Richard and Elsa Proctor, Arcadia: "Batavia Guest Lodge, 6 Vriende St., 8001 Cape Town; tel. 011-2782-451-5437. Newly renovated B&B in quiet, close-in location. Warm hospitality; sumptuous breakfasts." Rate: about \$79 double.

Send recommendations to
Travel Section, Times, Times
Mirror Square, L.A. 90053.

Letters

Hikers Versus Bikers

As a longtime hiker in our local mountains, I fervently second John McKinney's comments ("Finding the Rocky Edge of Civilization," Hiking, April 19). Most mountain bikers do not give warning of their rapid approach. Some do—many times when they are nearly on top of a hiker, leaving little time to react.

Sharing of trails is a good idea when sharing can be accomplished with safety. Hikers and equestrians coexist nicely, probably because the terrain does not permit riding at a gallop. Bikers on a downhill are another story.

Along with many other hikers, I have written several letters on this subject to the powers that be, without any relief. The expressed attitude has been "we'll try it and see if it works." Well, it hasn't worked, and any number of scared and injured hikers can confirm that.

It is time to abandon a failed experiment.

SIDNEY LEWINTER
Redondo Beach

Kudos to McKinney for his very accurate description of the Hummingbird Trail in Simi Hills.

Also unfortunately accurate is his portrayal of the terrible hazards of hiking on a trail not fit for bicycles at all—much less when these "butt-brains" literally fly down the trail with criminal disregard for anyone or anything on it. I've experienced this each of the

several times I have hiked this otherwise unique and delightful trail.

JOANS S. WEAVER
Chatsworth

Revisiting Cambodia

I really enjoyed the articles on Angkor Wat ("Return of the Lost City," April 19).

How times change! When my wife and I visited Cambodia in 1991, the Grand Hotel d'Angkor was a near ruin, with electricity provided between 6 and 10 p.m. only. Most rooms did not have seats on the toilets or lids on the tanks. Now it is a luxury hotel run by Raffles.

However, even under the very adverse circumstances that existed in 1991, the Cambodian people were wonderful and went out of their way to make our visit as pleasant as possible.

I would like to quarrel with a statement made by writer David Lamb. He said "archeologists consider the ruins of the Khmer empire the rival of Peru's 'lost' Inca city of Machu Picchu." I'd like to know who these archeologists are.

Machu Picchu is truly a ruin, with only skeletal remains of walls and foundations. What makes it special is the spectacular Andes setting. The Angkor complex contains hundreds of temples and palaces, each intricately carved.

MYRON OAKES
San Marino

Send letters, with your phone number, to Travel Section, The Times, Times Mirror Square, L.A. 90053.

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gunfighter come to new crew of bad boys," he said. The new bad guys include the leaders of his own party who are promoting the "Contract with America," he said. "That ain't no contract. It's one-sided. It's just the latest political scam to come down the pike. We have a contract already — the Constitution." Cleaver spoke to about 100 people at Laxson Auditorium in an event sponsored by Chico State University Associated Students Programming. He was to have spoken here a couple of weeks ago but canceled because he was ill. His talk this week was not well-publicized and the audience was small. Dealing drugs landed Cleaver

was there he wrote "Soul on Ice," a best-seller about the alienation of African-Americans. In the 1960s, he joined with Bobby Seale and Huey Newton to form the militant Black Panthers. Cleaver said he advocated violence and was ready for war with the police in Oakland, but his attitude was tempered by Newton, who insisted on obeying the letter of the law. Cleaver defended the Panthers, saying, "the most important thing we did was stand up to authority." The justice the militants sought still has not been won, but the solution is not to "restart the Panthers," he said.

to get good jobs, participate in the political system and "reject all forms of racism," he said. To understand the civil rights movement, Cleaver said, it's necessary to consider its origins. It may have begun in 1215 when some English barons forced the king to sign the Magna Carta, ensuring the English people certain rights, he said. America's founding was a great step in that same spirit, he said. A lot of people criticize the founding fathers for being slave owners and racists, he said, but he added you have to consider

See Cleaver Page A8

Grader brings guns to school

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Rosedale to interview the boy. The child's father was contacted, and the third grader was taken to the police station. He was cited for having a firearm on school grounds and released to the custody of his father, who was extremely concerned, Lara said. The boy had stolen the guns from a location other than his parents' home and concealed them for a couple of days before taking them to school, Lara indicated. "These are both starter's guns, but one is drilled out in the barrel so that it does have the capability of firing a .22 bullet," Lara said. "The one with the hollowed-out barrel was fully loaded with blanks." A sergeant and the police department's former range master both confirmed that because of the force of the

gases, blanks fired at point-blank range against a person's head could cause serious injury or death, especially if the victim was a child. The weapon that had been drilled out "is by definition a firearm," said officer Dan Fonseca, former range master. Police said they did not know who had modified the starter's pistol. "I think this young boy was trying to impress his friends and show off," Lara said. "Fortunately, some other students observed him with the guns and did the appropriate thing by telling a teacher." The third grader is facing serious consequences, according to Bernie Vigallon, director of the district's alternative learning programs. He "faces possible expulsion and a definite reprimand," said Vigallon.

Bikes banned from trail

MILL VALLEY (AP) — The Mill Valley City Council has unanimously voted to ban mountain bicyclists from a popular hiking trail leading to Mount Tamalpais. The council listened to about two hours of testimony before voting on the ban Tuesday night. Of the 150 people who turned out for the meeting, the pro-ban faction narrowly outnumbered those opposing it. At issue was a two-mile long path, called the Cypress Trail, which stretches from Cypress Avenue in Mill Valley to the Tenderfoot Trail on Mount Tamalpais. It was one of the few single-track trails leading to the mountain that allowed bicyclists. Hikers complained of erosion on the trail and claimed the bicyclists threatened the safety of those on foot.

win easily in a primary," Ali said. "Something else that isn't encouraging for Wilson — Clinton's got a favorite." Clinton's got a favorite. See Wilson Page A8

CHICO
E.R.
2/23/95

Monday, December 23, 2002

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Archives

New trail unnecessary

Although the notion of the proposed Annie Bidwell Trail extending through the south side of upper Bidwell Park "within sight and sound" of the creek sounds romantic, it may not be a good idea.

The south side of upper park already has over 20 miles of trails, the north side over 50. These trails are heavily used by mountain bikers and in many locations, irreplaceable topsoil is rapidly eroding away. During the wet season even hikers degrade the trail system and adjacent vegetation by avoiding mud puddles along the trails.

Mountain bikes on the trails of upper park during the wet season are especially detrimental to the stability of the topsoil. In spite of rules that prohibit this activity, bikers regularly can be found along the trails in the rain or shortly thereafter. Park rangers seem ineffective as they are rarely observed on remote trail locations, especially on the south side.

Why build new trails when the city can't afford to adequately maintain and improve over 75 miles of existing trails? Besides, upper Bidwell Park already has a trail within "sight and sound" of the creek, only it's called the Yahi Trail and it's on the north side.

The Bidwells entrusted the leaders of this community with a valuable resource. If our leaders are to properly manage the park, they must maintain existing trails, enforce trail rules and restrict new trail development to those deemed absolutely necessary.

- Josephine Guardino, Chico

Friday, November 29, 2002

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Archives

Trail damage on the rise; bikes blamed

By LAURA URSENY - Staff Writer

A new generation of mountain bikes are giving cyclists the fastest and most fun rides of their lives, but some say they are causing greater damage in Bidwell Park.

Wider, deeper marks began appearing over the last six months, according to park users who want to see the issue brought to the table. They're seeking support and leadership from the mountain bike community.

Park users Susan Mason of the California Native Plants Society and park trail volunteer and local dentist Michael Jones waited through Monday's entire Bidwell Park and Playground Commission to ask that the issue be put on a future agenda.

Mason and Jones say they've seen the damage left behind by mountain bikes, and it's worse than ever.

Mason talked to a local bike shop owner, who said technical improvements allow cyclists to go faster. When the direction is downhill and momentum mounts, that means wider, deeper marks. Mason also complained about jumps cyclists are making from rock ledges.

Mason said she'd like cyclists and bike stores to be involved in this discussion, as well as Chico State University's bike team.

"Trails I've seen have gone from being two feet wide to six feet wide. There's significant damage," Jones told the Park Commission.

"I think they're going fast and sliding around on curves."

Jones suggested trail speed limits of about 5 mph. Cyclists could go faster on Ten-Mile House Road, said Jones, and Upper Park Road.

Jones showed the commission the International Mountain Bike Association's "rules of the trail" that could be applied to upper park.

Those rules start out by saying, "The way we ride today shapes mountain bike trail access tomorrow."

The association's Web site - www.imba.com - reproduces the rules, which it says are "recognized around the world as the standard code of conduct for mountain bikers." The site translates the rules into other languages as well.

After the meeting, Jones said he particularly likes the rules that say impact on trails should be minimal, that stress control, and yielding to others is a habit, rather than exception.

The issue of trail damage is expected to be brought up to the Trail Safety Committee in January.

4/28/03

pg. 9 addition to Response to
SD II from
Cathy Helges

Letters to the editor

'Spandex' bikers are a park nuisance

Dear Editor

I think there should be a speed limit, some courteous rules or a special lane for the "spandex" bicycle racers that feel the need to run those of us that don't ride or walk as fast, off the road and into the bushes in Bidwell Park.

The park is for everyone's pleasure and enjoyment, and is more than not, spoiled by those few who feel they are superior to the rest of us. This is an on going problem and not just a rarity. Approximately eight out of ten times my family and I have ridden our bikes through the park and there has been at least one of us that has just about been plowed over by one of those egotistical speeders.

I've also seen elderly people taking relaxing strolls, enjoying the tree-lined roadway, and been disheveled by these arrogant bicyclists. They ride at such dangerously fast speeds and continue to go those speeds even on blind curves. They must feel that the rest of us should be prepared to stop or get out of their way at a moment's notice. They yell profanities, they scream "right," expecting us to know what they mean, and are just basically rude.

Most leisurely park bike riders or walkers are taking in the sights, day-dreaming or just enjoying each other's company, and a loud yell from someone coming up behind them is startling, disturbing and selfishly ruining their park experience.

I'm sure I'm not the only one that has experienced this chronic dilemma, and have felt frustrated by not being allowed to fully enjoy Bidwell Park. Annie Bidwell would be very upset at the thought of elderly citizens of Chico being run off the road of her park that she so graciously donated to our town.

People of Chico, unite! If you feel that this problem has gotten totally out of hand, contact your City Council and do it now, spring and summer are just around the corner! Make a difference!

CASEY SELKO
Chico

unk. date

4/28/03

pg 10? SD II Response
from Cathy Hedges

Sacramento

Trail riders

Re "Helping park users get along," April 11. It's true that equestrians are allowed on most of the 99 miles of trails in the Folsom Lake and Auburn trails. However, 100 percent of the trails are open to pedestrians, dog walkers and folks with baby strollers. Many miles of trails are open to mountain bikers, and equestrians are not allowed on those trails. Folsom Lake and Auburn trail areas are unique in their accessibility to equestrians because only 2 percent to 5 percent of all California public trails are open to horses. That is a mighty small piece of the public trail pie.

Horses and mountain bikes are incompatible, from the points of safety and environmental damage. A horse is a living entity with its own will, and its own sense of survival. It can and will spook if alarmed, and it's no secret that a couple of mountain bikes coming around the trail, piloted by spandexed, hooting riders, can certainly cause a horse to jump off a steep trail. Equestrians routinely practice trail etiquette. This seems to be a custom mostly ignored by bikers.

Just because a big business interest such as mountain bike manufacturers decides its time to cash in on the assets developed and maintained by others doesn't mean it can circumvent years of hard work, donated time, money and devotion to environmental preservation exhibited by the equestrian community. How about contributing in kind to build, maintain and patrol new trails for the bikers, trails they too will have to share with pedestrians? Making this type of commitment would not only demonstrate sincerity, but it also would ensure the safe and sane use of these trails.

Mary Gale Lorber
Loomis

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